

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

OMAHA MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARM POSSESSION

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Contact: Jan Sharp, Criminal Chief

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Percy Webster, 52, of Omaha, Nebraska, was sentenced in Omaha today by Chief United States District Judge Joseph F. Bataillon, to serve 180 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of federal law. In addition to his prison term, he will serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison.

At 8:51 pm on January 18, 2009, Omaha Police attempted to make contact with Webster, who was observed standing in an alleyway near 16th and Binney. Webster fled northwest, attempting to grab something from his waist area as he ran. Officers chased him on foot into a small wooded area, briefly losing sight of him. When they found him, he was a few feet away from an abandoned 9mm pistol and a loaded magazine. He was convicted in Omaha in 1978 of Armed Robbery with a Firearm, in Maryland in 1987 of Burglary, and in 1999 in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base, all of which are considered to be violent felonies under federal law. Because he has at least three prior violent felony convictions, Webster is subject to an enhanced penalty of a mandatory minimum 15 years in prison. He was originally sentenced in December 2009 to serve 72 months in prison, after the court determined that the prosecution had not supplied him with sufficient documentation to prove the validity of the prior Maryland conviction. That determination was reversed on appeal by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and Webster was sentenced today in accord with the Circuit ruling.

This case was investigated by the Omaha Police Department.